

Consular News for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Consulate in Casablanca, Morocco

Winter 2015

American Citizen Services Section

Please note all non-emergency ACS services are by [appointment only](#)

Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00
8 Blvd Moulay Youssef
Casablanca, Morocco
0522-26-71-51

Upcoming Holiday Schedule

May 1- Moroccan Labor Day

May 25- Labor Day

July 3- Independence Day

July 18 & 19- Aid Al Fitr*

**Denotes a lunar holiday which may vary from the date listed*

Travel Updates & Advisories

The State Department updated its [worldwide caution](#) on January 9, 2015.

The most recent travel updates and advisories for Morocco are always available on our [website](#).

Town Hall for U.S. Citizens

March 18, 2015 6:00-8:00pm,
American School of Marrakech

For additional information please see the [announcement](#).

U.S. Consulate launches Consular News For U.S. Citizens

Welcome the first issue of the American Citizen Services Section's newsletter for U.S. Citizens in Morocco. We'll be publishing the newsletter quarterly, in order to better keep you informed about what's going at the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca and to provide you with relevant news, changes to Moroccan and U.S. law that may affect you, and share information that will make your time in Morocco safer and more enjoyable.

In this quarter's issue we will introduce you to our new Consul General, give you some tips to avoid being scammed, show you how to find up-to-date tax information and explain how to help friends and colleagues start the visa application process. We always welcome your feedback and would love to hear what questions you would like us to answer in future issues. Please feel free to contact us with your suggestions or questions at ACSCasablanca@state.gov.

Visiting the U.S. Consulate?

In order to enter the consulate you will need to pass through a security check. To speed up the process and ensure a smooth visit, please limit the amount of jewelry and metal items that you bring. Electronic devices are not allowed inside the consulate; cubbies are provided for storing these items.

Other prohibited items include: weapons or items that may be confused for weapons, lighters, liquids, cosmetics, food items, sealed envelopes, and large bags. Please review our [security screening procedures](#) prior to your visit.

Beware of Scams

The American Citizen Services Unit regularly receives inquiries from individuals who have been defrauded out of hundreds and in some cases thousands of dollars by someone contacting you via email – the technique is known as ‘Phishing’. In many cases these scammers troll the Internet for victims, and spend weeks or months building a relationship with their target in order to gain their trust.

Fraudulent schemes can include lotteries, inheritance notices, job offers, payroll overpayments or making it appear as though you are helping a friend in need. Scammers can be very clever and deceptive creating sad and believable stories to make you want to send them money. The ACS section has recently begun to receive inquiries from individuals who have internet contacts who claim to have been detained in Morocco due to Ebola screening. In some cases the scammers have claimed to be detained by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate until money has been paid for an Ebola screening fee. Please note that neither the U.S. Embassy nor the Consulate detain individuals.

Before sending any funds, the consulate urges you to check and see if your situation fits any of the following signs:

1. You only know your friend or finance by Internet and have not met in person.
2. Photographs of the scammer show a very attractive person who may even appear to be a professional model
3. The scammer is frequently in dire straits- such as a car crash, arrested, mugged, hospitalized, etc.
4. You have sent money to assist but the funds don't seem to reach their destination.
5. The scammer claims to be a U.S. Citizen born in the U.S. but uses poor grammar and spelling indicative of a non-native

If you believe that you are the victim of an internet scam, stop all communication with the scammer immediately. Do not send any money. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that you will be able to recover any funds already sent. Report the matter immediately to The Internet Crime Complaint Center, a partnership among the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BIA), at www.ic3.gov.

Stay Connected with STEP

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program is a free service that allows U.S. Citizens who are traveling to or living in a foreign country to register with their local embassy or consulate.



The U.S. Consulate strongly encourages all citizens traveling to or residing in Morocco to register. This allows us to better help you in an emergency. STEP also allows you to receive routine information and travel advisories from the U.S. Consulate.

A Smart Traveler Apps is now available for both Android and iPhone. The Smart App provides easy access to your STEP account and allows you to access updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. Embassy locations and more.

Please register or update your STEP enrollment at <https://step.state.gov>



Do you have non-citizen friends interested in visiting the U.S.?

As the busy summer travel season draws near, many people wish to visit the United States. If you have non-U.S. citizen friends or colleagues who wish to travel to the U.S. for tourism, please refer them to <http://www.ustraveldocs.com>.

The U.S. consulate aims to facilitate legitimate travel to the United States; our website provides detailed instructions and information on visa applications. The Non-Immigrant Visa Section encourages individuals to apply well in advance of their planned travel and strongly recommends against purchasing tickets or making hotel bookings until after a visa is approved. For more information or to begin the application process please visit

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com>.

For additional assistance you can also contact our call center at 0892-09-9999. Assistance is available in English, French, and Arabic, Monday-Sunday 07:00-19:00 Moroccan time.



Ask the Consul

Have a question you've always wanted to ask a consular officer? E-mail your questions to

ACSCasablanca@state.gov with the subject line "Ask the Consul."

We'll include the answers to your questions in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events at Dar America

Tuesday February 24 @ 16:00

Racism: the American & Moroccan Experiences- American Fulbright Fellow Hazel Unger will lead a discussion on racism in the United States and Morocco.

Wednesday February 25 @ 16:00

Black Voices Public Speaking Contest- Contestants will compete for prizes while reciting texts, speeches and/or poetry from prominent African American figures.

Friday February 27 @ 17:00

Open Dar: Open Mic Night

Do you write poems? Sing Songs? Dance? All forms of creative expression are welcome at Open Mic Night at Dar America. Share your talent with us!

Thursdays in February @ 14:00

EducationUSA Advising- Speak with Dar America's EducationUSA advisor, Mostafa Bentoumia, to discuss your aspirations for study abroad. He will be present every Thursday afternoon to answer questions on a walk-in basis or by appointment, by e-mailing mbentoumia@amideast.org

Like Dar America on Facebook to keep up to date on exciting upcoming events!

<https://www.facebook.com/DarAmericaCasablanca>

Welcome to our new Consul General



Nicole Theriot assumed responsibility as United States Consul General in Casablanca, Morocco on October 21, 2014.

Prior to arriving in Casablanca, Ms. Theriot served as the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Supervisory Regional Consular Officer, based in Germany. She led the Regional Consular Officer program, which provides guidance and assistance to 89 consular sections worldwide. Her previous overseas

assignments include service at the U.S. Embassies in Pakistan, Barbados, Iraq, Montreal, Paris, and Nigeria. She also served as Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs at the Department of State in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Theriot earned multiple Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards from the U.S. Department of State and speaks French and Urdu. She earned a M.A. in International Relations from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. in Political Science from Louisiana State University.

Ms. Theriot is a native of South Louisiana and is an avid sports fan. Her partner of 17 years, Tom Agnew, is a management consultant who resides in Southern California.

Tax Season

Taxes are due Wednesday April 15, 2015. The U.S. Consulate is unable to provide tax advice or assistance. The following information is from www.irs.gov and is intended for U.S. Citizens residing abroad.

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](#) to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). However, even if you are allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers).

The following is a list of resources you may find helpful:

- Federal Benefits and Obligations (including a FAQ for tax season- <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/legal-matters/benefits.html>)
- The IRS' information page for [U.S. Citizens and resident aliens abroad](#)
- Information on state tax forms www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs
- The IRS' International Taxpayer Service Call Center is open M-F 6:00-23:00 (Eastern Time)
Telephone (267)-941-1000 (not a toll-free call)
Fax (267) 941-1055

Employment Opportunities

The U.S. Embassy in Rabat is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Travel Assistant (2 positions)
- INL Program Manager

The latest vacancies and application instructions are always available at http://morocco.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html.

The Embassy Cooperative Association* currently has the following vacancies:

- Accountant
- Store Manager

For additional information or to apply please visit <http://morocco.usembassy.gov/about-us/additional-employment-opportunities.html>.

*These positions are not U.S. Government positions and do not convey any benefits of U.S. Government employment.

The End is near...

(For Adding Pages to a Passport!)

Beginning in January, 2016 the U.S. Department of State will no longer add extra pages (Visa Page Inserts) to existing passports. Instead of seeking additional pages, individuals who are out of space in their passports will need to apply for a renewal.

In preparation for the elimination of the 24-page 'Visa Page Inserts', all passport applications currently made overseas (i.e. at a consular section) now result in the issuance of the larger 52 page passport books.

If you wish to apply for additional pages, you must do so prior to January 1, 2016. Please complete a [DS-4085](#) application and schedule an [appointment online](#) with the American Citizen Services section at the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca.

The American Citizen Services Section wants YOU



To be a Warden!

ACS is looking for a few good men and women who would like to serve as local wardens. Wardens are private citizens who volunteer to assist the ACS section in communicating with U.S. Citizens in Morocco. Wardens are often our best way of reaching citizens in the event of an emergency. To volunteer contact ACSCasablanca@state.gov.